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ABRIDGED REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR  
THE RURAL AREA  
OF  
SALISBURY AND WILTON  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER

1944.



SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.

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*Chief Sanitary Inspector—J. THOMPSON,*

Phone—Salisbury 3371.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors—J. A. FURLEY.*

A. T. BOORE,  
(Recalled to the Colours, 1939).  
Sgt., R.A.M.C., Sanitary Section.

*Pupil Sanitary Inspector—H. SHARRAT,*

(Joined R.A.F., Dec., 1940)

Flt. Lieut., R.A.F., on Active Service.

*Offices—35, CASTLE STREET, SALISBURY.*

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# Abridged Report

for the year ended December, 1944,  
on Public Health Matters in the  
Combined Rural District of  
Salisbury and Wilton.

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## *Composition of the Area.*

The area in acres is 110,163 (approx.)

Rateable value of the district—£81,733 os. od.

Penny rate yields approximately £357 14s. 7d.

## Vital Statistics to December, 1944.

### *Births.*

The birth-rate was 17·8 which compares with 19·8 last year, and with the figure of 20·9 given by the Registrar General for smaller towns, etc. The following are the figures for the year :—

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 17·8
Live Births—Legitimate	259	154	105	
Illegitimate	40	17	23	
Stillbirths—Legitimate	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
Illegitimate	•	•	0	9·8

*Deaths.*

Deaths	Total	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 12
...	196	97	99	

11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes—	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis ... o	o	o
Other Maternal Causes ... o	o	o
Total ... ... <hr/>	o	

**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—**

Number of deaths—(9 legitimate, 0 illegitimate)	9
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	30
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	34
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhæa (under two years) ...	...	0

*Particulars of Death.*

The chief causes of death were :—

		Last Year	This Year
Heart Disease ...	...	31%	35%
Cancer ...	...	9%	14%
Tuberculosis ...	o	1.5%	2%

## Details of Public Health Service in the District.

The Medical Officer, in addition to holding the appointment of Salisbury and Wilton Rural District, is also Medical Officer to Mere and Tisbury Rural District and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England, Certificates of Tropical Medicine and of Tropical Hygiene, London.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector holds the following qualifications: Member of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, Advanced Sanitary Science and the Certificate of Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

The present additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. Furley, late of Southampton and Bridgewater R.D.C.s', took up his duties on 1st March, 1944. He also holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector; also the City and Guilds, London, Building Construction (Honours).

The Assistant and Pupil Assistant are still in the Services; one in the Sanitary Section of the R.A.M.C., the other a Flt./Lt., on active service in the Mediterranean area.

There is also a Clerk and Shorthand Typist (Female) in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's office.

## Piped Water Supplies.

The pumping stations at Pitton and Farley have again stood up to the increased demands made on them, partly due to the large number of evacuees still in this area, also to the increase in agricultural activities with its consequent increased demand on water supplies.

The pumping station and water supply at White-parish has not been without its anxious moments during

the past year due to the abnormally large number of troops in this area previous to D-Day, also to the stand-by engine being much too small for this type of work. This has now been remedied by the installation of a larger engine and the existing engine being used as a stand-by.

The Parishes of Quidhampton, Stratford-sub-Castle, and parts of Laverstock and Netherhampton, have a bulk supply from Salisbury; Dinton from Mr. D. Combes' supply; West Dean from Norman Court Estate's supply; and Alderbury from the Earl of Radnor's supply.

The Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard, of London and Southampton, have prepared a very comprehensive scheme for the whole of the Council's district. This has been considered by the Council and has been submitted as a joint scheme with the Amesbury R.D.C., to the Wilts County Council. This is a very definite step in the right direction, and one on which the Council is to be fully complimented in adopting a broad and far-sighted policy with regard to the provision of a piped water supply.

### *Analyst's Report on Water Supplies.*

Number of supplies sampled	...	20
Number of good samples	...	15
Number of bad samples	...	5
Number of bad samples which showed a good analysis following remedial work	...      ...      ...	2
Number still receiving remedial work		3

The Analyst's reports on the quarterly samples taken from the Council's four Parish supplies have again been of a consistently good character.

### **House Refuse and Salvage Collection.**

The carrying out of this essential service during the past year has been the most difficult since the outbreak of hostilities, due to various causes. The Council's contractor is still retained in the Forces and the wear and

tear of vehicles, always a difficult problem, has been accentuated due to the garages being short of spare parts and labour, and the contractor's men have also suffered from war weariness, but the patience and diplomacy of the Chief Sanitary Inspector have enabled this work to be efficiently maintained. From a perusal of the salvage totals, it will be seen that the same remarks apply to that service also.

The following materials have been salvaged during the period under review :—

	tons	cwt.
Paper	... 75	
Scrap Iron	28	
Bottles & Jars	575 doz.	
Bones	... 8	10
Rags	... 12	5
Rubber	...	18
Lead	...	4
Brass	...	10

The number of books collected during the weekly Book Drive was 3,626, and in addition 900 books have been sent to the Forces at various times.

## Meat and other Food Inspections.

This very essential work has again taken up a considerable amount of the Inspector's time and the amounts condemned compare favourably with previous years.

### *Animals Slaughtered.*

	Number Killed.	Average per week.
Bovines	... 4,434	85
Calves	... 11,586	223
Pigs	... 18,162	349
Sheep	... 14,648	282
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48,830	939
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	Amount lbs.	Tuber- culosis	Fever & Dropsy	Bruising & Injury	Mori- bund	Jaundice & Fevered	Imma- ture	Liver Flukes
Beef	209,271	79%	12½%	5%	1%			2½%
Veal	2,394	55%	10%	7½%	20%	2½%	5%	
Pork	33,963	80%	10%	5%	5%			
Mutton	5,836		72½%	5%	7½%	5%		10%

### TINNED FOOD—

The following amounts of tinned foods were condemned at various Buffer Dumps:—

Meat (various)	...	10 lbs.
Pilchards	...	4 lbs.
Beans	...	3 lbs.
Evaporated Milk	...	7 lbs.
Skimmed Milk	...	2 pts.
Full Cream Milk	...	19 pts.

### Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 37 T.T. Herds, an increase of 10 over 1943, and 57 Accredited Herds, a decrease of 4, but these have been transferred to the T.T. Division.

All this tends to show that the remarks made in last year's report are fully justified, and it is true to say that the majority of Cowkeepers, in our district at least, are fully alive to the necessity of keeping their cowsheds and utensils up to a high standard.

There are, however, a few remaining black spots, but these are slowly being eradicated, and with the cessation of hostilities and more labour and material being available, this process will be accelerated.

#### Number on registers —

Cow-keepers	...	295
Cow-keepers and purveyors		69
Milk purveyors only	...	10
		—
Total		374

## Housing.

The 12 Agricultural cottages, 2 in each of the following parishes, Bowerchalke, Burcombe, Dinton, Ebbesbourne Wake, Homington, Pitton, have been completed and occupied.

Two cottages have been reconstructed under the Rural Workers' Act at Bowerchalke, and one house at Stratford Touy and one at Homington have been reconstructed and converted into bungalows without any grant.

The Council is fully alive to the necessity of post-war housing and sites have been selected and are awaiting approval by the Regional Commissioner, for the first post-war year's programme.

### *Temporary Permits due to blitz conditions.*

There are 34 temporary permits in being for use of persons who are from blitzed areas, plus 8 cottages licensed under the Housing Acts. The whole of these with one exception, have been well conducted, and it is not proposed to renew the one exception this year.

Two permits have been cancelled, the occupants in both cases having been successful in obtaining permanent dwellings.

### *Complaints.*

During the past year some 55 complaints were received, 29 of which were written and the remainder verbal.

Out of this total, upon investigation 12 were found to be without any justification in fact, and of the remainder informal notices were sufficient to get the complaints rectified.

## Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic; this has been the case for the last fourteen years.

Disease	Number of cases	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	18	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Erysipelas	7	2	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	15	1	0
Cerobro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Measles	47	0	0
Whooping Cough	124	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0
Vincents Angina	0	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	1	1	0
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	1	1

## Tuberculosis.

### New Cases.

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0				
1				1
5				
10				
15		1		
20				1
25	1			
35	1	1		
45	2	1		
55				
65 & upwards				
Totals	4	3	0	2

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

The total number of children immunised during the year ended 31st December, 1944, is as follows:—

Under 5 years	...	166
5—15 years]	...	34

The total percentage of children immunised in the district being

Under 5 years	...	79
5—15 years	...	93

These compare very favourably with the percentages given in a Ministry of Health circular for the whole country, and my thanks are due to the local Doctors and District Nurses for their loyal co-operation in this essential work.

## Infestation.

The usual steps were taken during the year to combat the minor cases of Infestation which did occur.

## General.

During the past year, Mr. Saunders, the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, left to take up his duties as the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Ludlow R.D.C., Salop, and his place has been taken by Mr. Furley, of Southampton, who commenced his duties in March, 1944.

In this, which I hope will be the last war-time annual report, I should like to take the opportunity of paying tribute to the staff of the Council's Public Health Department.

The many extraneous duties which they have at all times cheerfully undertaken, must have meant considerable curtailment of their small amount of leisure. In fact, I think it is correct to say that the Chief Sanitary Inspector has only been absent from duty for five days since 1938, and I am very grateful to the whole staff for their loyalty during this difficult period.

